Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

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R 140255Z SEP 74 FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2216 AMEMBASSY TAIPEI USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR. CH. EG

SUBJECT: NEW PRC AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT

- 1. NCNA HAS ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF CHANG T'UNG (1728/1749) AS PEKING'S NEW AMBASSADOR TO CAIRO. CHANG, WHO HAS SERVED AS CHINA'S AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN SINCE 1969, HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH MOFA FOR OVER TWO DECADES. HE HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS A "POLISHED AND ABLE SOLDIER-DIPLOMAT" AND A SKILLED NEGOTIATOR.
- 2. HIS FIRST ASSIGNMENT ABROAD WAS IN 1950 AS A MILITARY ATTACHE IN DENMARK. IN 1953 HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO SIMILAR DUTIES IN SWEDEN. HE SERVED THERE UNTIL JANUARY 1956 WHEN HE WAS PROMOTED FROM DOLONEL TO SENIOR COLONEL AND REASSIGNED AS MILITARY ATTACHE TO THE PRC'S EMBASSY IN NEW DELHI. IN JULY 1961, HE WAS NAMED CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AT THE NEW PRC EMBASSY IN THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO. HOWEVER, CHANG WAS RECALLED TO PEKING WHEN THE EMBASSY WAS CLOSED IN SEPTEMBER 1961, FOLLOWING THE CONGO CRISIS. FROM 1962 TO 1969, HE SERVED AS MOFA'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR (SEPTEMBER 1962-OCTOBER 1964) AND THEN DIRECTOR OF THE FIRST DEPARTMENT OF ASIAN AFFAIRS, WHICH HANDLED NON-COMMUNIST NATIONS. APPOINTED AS AMBASSADOR TO ISLAMABAD IN 1969, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CHANG WAS AMONG THE FIRST OF CHINA'S DIPLOMATS TO RETURN

ABROAD FROM THE MASS RECALL OF AMBASSADORS IN 1967 DURING THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION.

- 3. CHANG HAS REPORTEDLY WORKED CLOSELY WITH PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI AND ON OCCASION HAS ACTED AS CHOU'S INTERMEDIARY DURING HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN OFFICIALS.
- 4. CHANG WAS BORN NOVEMBER 15, 1919 IN HONAN PROVINCE BUT FEW DETAILS ARE AVAILABLE CONCERNING HIS EARLY LIFE AND ACTIVITIES. HE MAY HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE MANY CHILD ORDERLIES WHO WERE ATTACHED TO THE CHINESE WORKERS' AND PEASANTS' ARMY. AT ONE POINT HE SERVED AS COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE PLA 232ND REGIMENT, WHICH WAS A COMPONENT OF THE REORGANIZED 78TH DIVISION OF CHEN YI'S 3R I&RFPFARMY. CROSS

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